

Amendments to the Specification

Page 10, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 7-16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The oxirane compound as the other material for producing the aromatic ethers is a compound in which at least one epoxy group (tricyclic ether) is contained in a molecule thereof. The preferable oxirane compound includes: aliphatic alkylene oxides such as ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, isobutylene oxide, 1,2-butylene oxide, 2,3-butylene oxide, and pentylene oxide; aromatic alkylene oxides such as styrene-styrene oxide; and cyclohexane-cyclohexene oxide. The oxirane compounds may be used solely or in combination of two or more thereof. Among the oxirane compounds, preferred are aliphatic alkylene oxides having 2 to 4 carbon atoms such as ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, isobutylene oxide, and 2,3-butylene oxide.